

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 072174

61

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 049074

R 312041Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 072174

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 072174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 31, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH ON SATURDAY?

A. I WILL LIMIT MYSELF TO JUST ONE GENERAL COMMENT ON THIS SPEECH. WE FOUND PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH STATESMANLIKE AND RESTRAINED.

Q. WAS THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE UNEF FORCE TO THREE MONTHS INSTEAD OF SIX?

A. I WOULD RATHER AT THIS STAGE NOT GO INTO ANY OF THE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO LEAVE IT FOR THE MOMENT WHERE I LEFT IT.

Q. IS THERE ANY UNITED STATES COMMENT ON THE OPENING OF THE CANAL DECISION?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT, SPECIFIC COMMENTS, ON THE SUBJECTS THE PRESIDENT RAISED IN HIS SPEECH, OTHER THAN THE GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 072174

COMMENT I JUST GAVE YOU NOW.

Q. THE SECRETARY MET WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON FRIDAY.

A. I BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY MET WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON SATURDAY.

Q. SATURDAY?

A. SATURDAY. THEY HAD BREAKFAST TOGETHER. IT IS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE THE AMBASSADOR WENT HOME. THEY HAD THEIR CUSTOMARY TOUR D'HORIZON. I DO NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED ...

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY READOUT AT ALL ON THAT DISCUSSION?

A. I KNOW THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WAS DISCUSSED, THE SECRETARY'S RECENT TRIP OUT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT IS THE ONLY SPECIFIC THING THAT I CAN GIVE YOU AT THIS TIME.

Q. DID THEY DISCUSS THE UNITED STATES PLANS, INTENTIONS TO GO TO GENEVA?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY DISCUSSED THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION OR NOT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON PRAVDA'S POINTING A FINGER AT THE CIA BEING THE CULPRIT FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL?

A. I COMMENTED ON THIS ON FRIDAY.

Q. I'M SORRY.

A. I WILL CHANGE IT, IN THE HOPES THAT IT WILL STICK. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THIS IS A MALICIOUS, DELIBERATE LIE.

Q. HAVE YOU CONVEYED THIS TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN ANY WAY?

A. OUR VIEWS WILL BE MADE KNOWN, IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 072174

YES.

Q. DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT THE SECRETARY MADE THESE VIEWS

KNOWN TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN OVER BREAKFAST?

A. I DO NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHETHER HE MADE THESE VIEWS KNOWN OR NOT. JUST LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT OUR VIEWS WILL BE MADE KNOWN OR HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN. I CANNOT GIVE YOU THE DETAILS.

Q. NOW WE GO TO THE QUESTION OF SADAT'S SPEECH ABOUT THE SUEZ CANAL. I KNOW THERE WAS A COMMENT ON IT BEFORE I CAME IN. BUT DID ANYBODY ASK WHETHER OR NOT SADAT GAVE AN EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING TO THE SECRETARY AT THE TIME

OF THE DISENGAGEMENT THAT ISRAELI SHIPS OR CARGOES BOUND FOR ISRAEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRANSIT THE CANAL ONCE THE DISENGAGEMENT IS COMPLETED, OR ONCE THE CANAL IS FREE TO OPERATE?

A. THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, JOE, IS NO -- NOBODY ASKED THAT QUESTION. SECONDLY, ON THAT SUBJECT, I HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE YOU BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID, I BELIEVE IT WAS ON NOVEMBER 15, WITH REGARD TO THIS QUESTION THE RELATIONSHIP OF CARGO PASSAGE TO THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. BUT I WILL BE GLAD TO GET YOU THE EXACT TEXT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HUNT FOR IT.

Q. VERY GOOD. THANK YOU. NOW, ONE MORE THING. WHERE DO WE STAND NOW ACTUALLY ON THE ASSESSMENT OR EXAMINATION OF OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY? IS THERE A SPECIAL TASKFORCE WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SAY, OR OTHER DEPARTMENTS, TO GET THIS THING TOGETHER BEFORE THE SECRETARY GOES TO PALM SPRINGS ON THURSDAY?

A. NO. FIRST OF ALL, LET'S GO BACK AND RECALL HOW THIS ORIGINATED. IT WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT ASKED TO HAVE A REASSESSMENT MADE AND TO HAVE THIS REASSESSMENT GIVEN TO HIM WITH ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH MAY WISH TO GIVE TO HIM. NOW, OBVIOUSLY, ANY TYPE OF REASSESSMENT LIKE THIS IS DONE -- UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 072174

THIS ONE IS NOT ANY DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER. IT IS DONE IN THE NORMAL WAY, THROUGH THE NSC MACHINERY. AND THE INTERESTED OR APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS REASSESSMENT. THE REASSESSMENT IS UNDER WAY NOW. THE PRESIDENT, WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THIS, SAID THAT HE WANTED TO HAVE THIS DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT I CANNOT TELL YOU WHEN IT WILL BE FINISHED EXACTLY.

Q. WELL, IS IT GOING TO BE FINISHED BEFORE THE PRESIDENT GIVES HIS SPEECH ON FOREIGN POLICY THE 9TH OR 10TH OF APRIL?

A. I CANNOT TELL YOU. I JUST DON'T KNOW. IT MAY BE; IT MAY NOT.

Q. YOU DON'T BELIEVE, THEN, FROM WHAT YOU SAY, THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE CARRYING ANY FRESH IDEAS REGARDING THIS REASSESSMENT OR REEXAMINATION OR WHATEVER TO THE PRESIDENT ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON?

A. HE MAY. HE MAY NOT. I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL BE DIS-

CUSSING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. BUT WHETHER THIS REASSESSMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOR WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE DAY ON THURSDAY, I JUST DON'T KNOW. I CANNOT ANSWER THAT.

Q. HAVE WE HAD ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MAY THROW LIGHT ON THE FACTOR OF WHEN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MIGHT BE RECONVENED, OR WHAT THE THINKING IS ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION? WILL OTHER COUNTRIES BE INVITED, APART FROM THE SIX WHICH ALREADY ARE THERE -- OR ANYBODY ELSE BE INVITED, APART FROM THE NATIONS INVOLVED THAT ARE UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS?

A. I CANNOT SPECULATE WITH YOU WHO WOULD BE INVITED, OTHER THAN THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST GENEVA CONFERENCE. I DO NOT KNOW, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY COMMUNICATION THUS FAR FROM ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT REQUESTING A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I REFER BACK TO WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 072174

REFERENCE A WEEK AGO SATURDAY IN ASWAN, WHERE HE INDICATED THAT EGYPT WOULD SOON BE IN TOUCH WITH THE TWO CO-CHAIRMEN; I.E., THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. I BELIEVE HE ALSO INDICATED THAT EGYPT WISHED TO CONSULT WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS ABOUT THIS. I AM UNAWARE AT THIS TIME OF ANY COMMUNICATION THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED.

Q. CAN WE GO BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST AGAIN, AND ASK YOU WHETHER OR NOT SENATOR MC GOVERN HAS TRANSMITTED ANY MESSAGES TO THE SECRETARY REGARDING HIS TALKS WITH THE PEOPLE IN EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND LEBANON?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY MESSAGES. LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY MESSAGES THAT HAVE COME IN. BUT I WILL LOOK INTO IT. END QUOTE.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED IF HE HAD ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS OF US AMBASSADORS IN MIDDLEEASTERN COUNTRIES RETURNING TO THE US ON CONSULTATION. AMBASSADOR ANDERSON RESPONDED:

"WE HAVE ASKED OUR AMBASSADORS IN EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN AND SYRIA TO COME BACK THIS WEEK ON CONSULTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH OUR CURRENT REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY."
KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS, PRESS CONFERENCES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE072174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GFSHERMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750111-0818
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975031/aaaaaask.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006